GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3039
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND INSECTICIDES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the chemical fertilizer and insecticides have ill affects on agriculture;

(b) if so, whether the Government considers bio-agriculture as its substitute; and

(c) if so, the merits and demerits of bio-agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): The average per hectare consumption of chemical fertilizer nutrients and insecticides (technical grade) are 89.8 kg/ha and 0.22 kg/ha respectively. This level of consumption is not considered to have ill-effect on agriculture. However, if the chemical pesticides are not used judiciously, they may have ill effects such as development of pest resistance to pesticides, pest resurgence, outbreak of secondary pests, pesticide residues in agriculture products, environmental pollution and ecological imbalances.

(b): Organic Farming (also known as bio-agriculture) advocates the use of organic inputs for plant nutrients and biological control of pests and diseases. The Government is promoting `Integrated Nutrient Management` (INM) which advocates soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic manures and bio-fertilizers to overcome the ill-effects and for sustaining soil health and its productivity and also Integrated Pest Management providing mechanical, biological and need based use of pesticides.

(c): Bio-agriculture is the holistic approach for ecofriendly and sustainable agriculture based on natural organic inputs. However, it may have limitations of lower productivity but has potential for export market and niche domestic market. The bio-control agents/biopesticides have demerits of high cost of product, species specific action and weather dependant efficacy.